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Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OCA 88-2475

28 JUL 1988

The Honorable Jack Brooks  
Chairman  
Committee on Government Operations  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Director has asked me to respond to your 28 April 1988 letter requesting a review of the General Accounting Office's (GAO) report on administrative support services overseas.

At your request, the appropriate officials in our Directorate of Administration reviewed this GAO report with interest and concern. As you are aware, the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) relationship with the Department of State spans many years of cooperation and support. On balance, the CIA has been pleased with the support from the Department of State and finds the cost fairly reasonable. The Agency's relationship with other government entities, especially when they involve such sensitivity, is subject to the close and continuing scrutiny of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees.

The Agency considers the recommendations contained in the GAO report to be consistent with sound management and accounting practice, and in our estimation, they have merit. We certainly agree that any effort to better identify costs and related program benefits is most worthy of consideration.

Sincerely,

**SIGNED** JCG

John L. Helgeson  
Director of Congressional Affairs

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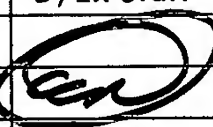
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TO:

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Remarks D/OCA will respond over his signature.

STAT

Executive Secretary

5 May 88

Date

3637 (10-81)

To: The Director

From: John Helgerson

05 MAY 1988

       We plan to prepare an  
answer for your signature.

       ✓ We plan to prepare an  
answer for my signature.

       No answer expected or required

       John, I prefer to \_\_\_\_\_

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April 28, 1988

Honorable William H. Webster  
 Director of Central Intelligence  
 Central Intelligence Agency  
 Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Webster:

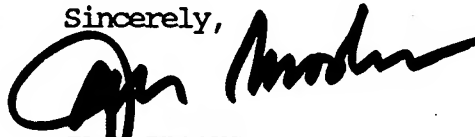
Over the years the Committee on Government Operations has taken an active interest in improving the management of U.S. Government operations overseas, both in the quality of services provided and in their cost effectiveness.

In an effort to avoid duplication and the unnecessary costs associated with it, the Committee has encouraged agencies operating overseas to participate in shared administrative support services. It has been disappointing, therefore, to continue to learn of problems associated with these support services. I am convinced that the potential for consolidating management services overseas remains. Unfortunately, however, consolidating services, particularly in developing countries, continues to be troublesome.

Recently, I requested the General Accounting Office to conduct a study of administrative support services overseas. A copy of the GAO report is enclosed. I would be most interested in knowing of your experience with administrative support services overseas and, in particular, having your comments on the the report. In view of your agency's commitments overseas, I would appreciate receiving any specific suggestions you may have as to how the process of sharing administrative support services can be improved.

Your early reply would be greatly appreciated. Meanwhile, with every good wish to you, I am

Sincerely,



JACK BROOKS  
 Chairman

Enclosure



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**GAO**

**United States General Accounting Office**

**Report to the Chairman, Legislation and  
National Security Subcommittee,  
Committee on Government Operations**

**March 1988**

# **OVERSEAS SUPPORT**

## **Current U.S. Administrative Support System Is Too Complicated**



**GAO/NSIAD-88-84**